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THE BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE AT TORONTO, CANADA.

At one of its afternoon sessions the possibility of disarmament was discussed. Rev. G. D. Boardman, D. D., read the first paper. He insisted on the conception of humanity as not merely an aggregation of individuals, but as an organic whole. Hence war among the parts is a crime against the whole. Those who know Dr. Boardman's views on this subject know what an entrancing picture of peace he can paint. Mr. J. E. Wells, editor of the *Canadian Baptist*, read a very fine paper. He pointed out the practical difficulties that hinder the universal reign of peace. Prof. Schurman of Cornell, who had been kept away on the day before by the funeral of a friend, spoke at some length on the measures next to be taken in order to extend still more the ever enlarging area of peace, and to mitigate the evils of war when it does occur.

A SLIGHT AMENDMENT.

We were pleased to see the just criticism and correct sentiment which follows, sent us by a retired merchant of Boston, who endorses it and adds the comments which follow the "clipping" from the paper claiming the largest circulation in Boston.

"In his speech at the Andrew Jackson banquet, Hon. Charles Levi Woodbury said :

"You want a navy; you want to defend your firesides; you want cannon; you want armed men; you want muskets and rifles."

"With profound respect and esteem for the illustrious Democrat who spoke these words, we ask leave to amend them as follows :

"We want peace; we want trade; we want work; we want wages; we want public prosperity and public purity; we want true democracy and fraternity with our brethren across the sea, as well as with those at home.

"Above all, we want no such great standing army and navy as those of the old world, to impoverish the people and be a menace to free governments."—*Boston Globe*.

I agree with the well known remark of Charles Sumner contained in the notes or appendix of his memorable and splendid address on the True Grandeur of Nations, viz., that a *military police* is needed on the land and on the sea. I am therefore not prepared to recommend the entire abolition of the navy or of the military forces on the land. They may, however, be comparatively small in this country, and we should never attempt to rival the enormous military armaments which burden Europe.

E. S. T.

THE "CURSE" OF CONSCRIPTION.

"I have no hesitation in saying that I consider Conscription the curse of Europe. The effects of the law, which renders military service compulsory, are entirely disastrous to the nations of the continent. . . . Italy bleeds at every pore. . . . The small country proprietors are mercilessly ruined, the cities are taxed until it is scarcely possible to live in them; and, worst of all, the peasantry is neglected and despised, and only remembered when it is necessary to demand from it the healthiest and the strongest of its sons as a sacrifice to the vanity and blindness of its political policy."—*Ondar*.

MEMORIAL TO THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

The following Memorial was sent promptly at the date thereof to those to whom it is addressed.

ROOMS OF THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY,
No. 1 SOMERSET ST., BOSTON, Oct. 4, 1889.

To the International Conference of American States of which Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE is President, and Hon. J. B. HENDERSON, President pro. tem.

The American Peace Society, organized in 1828, and devoted to the promotion of international comity, hereby expresses its profound satisfaction that the desire of the people of the United States, manifested in a multitude of petitions to our own Government, and the invitation issued by that Government in accordance with those petitions, have met with so general and cordial a response on the part of the nations of the American Continent; and that your honorable body is convened under such favorable auspices to consider matters of international interest and importance.

Among the subjects suggested for your consideration in the official communication inviting the Conference, none seem to us more vital to the future interest and prosperity of these American nations than that contained in Article VII. which reads as follows :

"An agreement upon and recommendation for adoption to their respective Governments of a *definite plan of arbitration of all questions, disputes and differences that may now or hereafter exist between them, to the end that all difficulties and disputes between such nations may be peacefully settled and wars prevented.*"

Individual nations without any concerted system, have realized the benefit of this mode of settling international disputes and thus averting threatened war in over sixty recorded instances during the present century.

Therefore we respectfully but earnestly pray your honorable body to give its weighty sanction to the recommendations contemplated in Article VII. above quoted.

On behalf of the American Peace Society, with highest respect.

EDWARD S. TOBEY, President.

ROWLAND B. HOWARD, Secretary.

PRESIDENT HARRISON AND PEACE.

William Jones writing in December to the London *Herald* says :

"I write from Washington, U. S. A., where, with a deputation of the friends of Arbitration from various parts of the United States, I have been waiting an opportunity of laying our views before the 'Pan-American Conference' now assembled here.

"During the interval President Harrison has kindly accorded me two brief interviews, at the first of which my wife was present. He received us with a few cordial words of welcome, we informed him that we had nearly completed the circuit of the globe in the interests of Peace and Arbitration.

"Reminding him of the deputation, two years ago, of English Members of Parliament, which, as then Secretary of the English Peace Society, I accompanied, in promotion of the proposed Arbitration Treaty between our respective countries, the President's reply, in effect, was that, though the present was not the time for discussing treaties with the Great Powers, he had always been an advocate of Peace, and any movements having for their object Arbitration, as a substitute for war, commanded his sympathy and respect.